

EARLY ROMANCE AIDED IN SETTLEMENT OF WASHOUGAL
by D. L. Gill

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In the days of long ago a young Englishman sailed on a British Man-O-war for far off Port Vancouver. This young man, Richard Ough, later became the founder of Washougal. While he was staying at the Fort, he met and fell in love with a beautiful Indian Princess from up the river. He decided to remain in the Oregon country rather than go back to England and in the course of a few months, Indian braves and maiden in a fleet of a hundred canoes paddled down the mighty Wauna to Fort Vancouver to see the loved daughter of their chief married to Richard Ough by the Hudson Bay Factor, Dr. John McLoughlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Ough came to Washougal and made their home just west of the Walter Fitzgerald residence. They took up a land grant on the site of the present city of Washougal and by the time that the town began to build up they owned nearly all the land around here.

In 1880 Richard Ough and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. C. Durgan plotted the streets of Washougal. Mr. Dave Gary has the original plot among his souvenirs of early Washougal.

Mr. and Mrs. Durgan opened the first General Merchandise store and Post Office back in 1854 in the building now occupied by Rasmussen's barber shop. This building was originally built on the corner of 2nd and Main Street and then was moved back to make room for the newer building on the corner, where Skelton and Bradford are now located.

Up until this time the main settlement of Washougal was about a mile below at Parker's Landing. The first store at the Landing was a General Merchandise store built in 1877 by H. H. Carpenter, who came there from New York. He operated the store there for several years and then moved to Washougal. The old part of the Carpenter building was their first store and in later years the part fronting on 2nd Street was built.